

**In the Abstract:**

Please delete the existing Abstract and replace it with the following new Abstract.

**Optimization Expert System**

**Abstract of the Invention**

An expert system having a data storage device and a processor. The data storage device stores models having attributes, objectives having rules for evaluating the models, and strategies having rules for modifying the attributes. The processor evaluates a selected model in accordance with a selected objective and having the variable attribute set in accordance with a selected strategy to determine a characteristic value associated with the selected model and the variable attribute setting. The processor also stores information associated with improved results in the data storage device.